



RECORDING ACADEMY
GRAMMY MUSEUM
MISSISSIPPI

THE GOSPEL SHOWDOWN

COMPETITION OVERVIEW AND OFFICIAL RULES

OVERVIEW

The Gospel Showdown is a choir competition held on GRAMMY Museum Mississippi's Front Lawn in order to celebrate Gospel Heritage Month and provide local and surrounding communities with a family friendly atmosphere. Proceeds raised during this event will go to support the GRAMMY Museum's educational initiatives.

Eligibility Requirements - The contest is open to choirs that meet the following requirements:

- a) Each performing member of the choir must be 18 years or older.
- b) Choirs must have a minimum of 2 members (including band members).
- c) Choirs must not exceed 50 members (including band members).
- d) Choirs must be able to perform on the competition date of September 15, 2018 anytime between 2pm and 6pm. Selected choirs will be asked to be on-site by 12:30pm.
- e) Choirs must sign media and liability waivers in order to participate.

In-Eligibility - The following choirs are ineligible to participate in the contest:

- a) A choir or any of its individual members who are professional musicians. A professional musician is defined as "being signed to or contracted with a major record label".
- b) A choir or any of its individual members who are under any type of contract that would prohibit their participation in this contest.
- c) Each performing member must be regular, active members of the choir.
- d) A choir or any of its individual members who do not meet the Eligibility Requirements above.

Music & Production Requirements

- a) Each choir will have no more than ten (10) minutes to perform two gospel songs. Entries may be in the following categories/genres of music: traditional or contemporary gospel, praise, worship or holy hip-hop and at least one song must be up-tempo.

b) Each choir is responsible for its own music accompaniment. The following instruments/backline will be available

on-site: drum set, keyboard & keyboard amp, guitar & bass amps, DIs, & microphones. Each group should bring their own snare and cymbals if possible. Groups are permitted to bring their own instruments except a drum set.

c) Selected choirs must be able to provide a contact person for all production related needs. This individual must be prompt in all correspondence with the production manager & sound engineers. All production related information will be due no later than Friday September 7th at 5pm CST.

d) No pre-recorded vocal tracks are allowed in this competition. If tracks are used, they must be provided to the production manager and/or sound engineer by designated date.

e) Official church choir robes and/or formal attire are required for the performance. Choir robes are highly encouraged.

OFFICIAL RULES

Selection Process

After the September 5th application deadline, if more than ten (10) submissions are received, the Museum reserves the right to implement a formal selection process using the "Judging Criteria" listed below. The choirs selected to perform on September 15th will be listed on www.grammymuseumms.org, and each choir's representative will be notified via email and/or telephone on September 5th.

Judging Criteria

Judges will consist of gospel artists & musicians, entertainment industry professionals and GRAMMY Award winners. Standards for judging will be based on 1) diction (clarity, naturalness, purity of vowel, and articulation of consonants), 2) stage presence (general audience appeal), 3) originality in presentation (dynamics/style, expression), 4) rhythmic accuracy (balance, blend and accuracy in pitch), and 5) conductor's ability (awareness of musical elements and choir communication). The decisions of the judges will be final. In the case of tie scores, the stage presence score will be the determining factor.

Disqualification

a) Videos, musical selections and choir clothing must not contain any content/information that is abusive, racist, sexist, homophobic, vulgar, obscene, pornographic, indecent, offensive, threatening, defamatory, libelous or otherwise objectionable or that promotes such against any individual or group. Content may not be sexually explicit, reflect any illegal activity, or be deemed inappropriate by GRAMMY Museum Mississippi and/or it's judges.

b) No assistance by anyone other than the Choir Director may be given to the choir during the performance. Any such assistance overseen by any of the judges and/or reported by two or more individuals and verified may be cause for automatic disqualification. This includes performers added to the group without prior notice and approval by the production manager.

c) An individual may not compete in more than one choir.

d) An individual or choir that is deemed a late arrival. A late arrival is defined as "15 minutes late from determined arrival time with the production manager unsuccessful in reaching group contact by phone".

Winners Prizes

The Grand Prize Winner, by judge's selection, will receive a trophy or plaque, opportunity to perform at a future museum event and a monetary award of five hundred dollars (\$500) payable to the winning choir's church. Check will be mailed the following week of the competition. The Runner-Up Winner, by judge's selection, will receive a trophy or plaque.

IMPORTANT DATES**Application Submission Deadline**

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 @ 5:30 PM CST

Choir Selection Announcement Date

Wednesday, September 5, 2018 @ 7:30 PM CST

Competition Date

Saturday, September 15, 2018 @ 2:00 PM CST

Address

GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
800 West Sunflower Road
Cleveland, MS 38732